



## Progress on Tribal Relations

To realize significant improvements in our government to government relationship, in 2007 the Chippewa National Forest and Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe committed to continued progress in four key areas of Tribal Relations. Progress during 2008 - 2009 includes:

### *Outreach and recruitment to Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe Tribal members*

- **Minnesota Chippewa Tribe Family Investment Program:** The Chippewa National Forest provided supervision and work experience for 3 Native American participants in their transition to economic stability.
- **Youth Conservation Corps:** The Chippewa National Forest annually sponsors 8 youth. In 2008, 3 participants were Native American. In 2009, the YCC program will be increased to 12 positions.
- **Student and Temporary Appointments:** In 2008, 3 Native American students were recruited for temporary employment on Ranger Districts. In 2009, a Band member will be converted from a student position to a permanent employee.

- **Leech Lake Tribal College:** Through a participating agreement with the College, Chippewa National Forest hosted four Native American interns for 10 to 12 weeks delivering Forest programs in their local communities. Two students will again participate in national forest work during 2009. *(Photo right: Smokey Bear and STEM student Brenda Fairbanks help teach fire prevention and Ojibwe wildlife names with Cass Lake Elementary students.)*



- **Leech Lake Temporary Employment Program:** Through a participating agreement in September 2008, 3 tribal members were immediately employed for heritage sites work. Additionally, temporary employment helped staff the Shingobee Winter Recreation Chalet and cooperatively provide chainsaw training for 10 members.



*(Photo: Forest Supervisor Rob Harper and Leech Lake Ojibwe Chairman Archie LaRose with the Tribal Council at agreement to utilize Leech Lake Temporary Employment.)*

### ***Partnerships:***

- Issued 5 new agreements in 2007 with the Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe for work on Heritage sites, Noxious Weeds, prescribed burns, and with the Leech Lake Tribal College.
- Issued 4 new Agreements in 2008 with the Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe and 1 new Agreement with the Leech Lake Tribal College – STEM Students Internship Program. The agreements focused on utility services for the LL Enforcement Center, Heritage sites work, coordinating fire management activities and initiating clean up of dumpsites.
- To date in 2009, 9 agreements with the Leech Lake Band are developing focusing on implementing the Temporary Employment Program, road decommissioning, roads maintenance and improvement, trail development, chainsaw training and Heritage survey work.
- Bois Forte Band of Ojibwe Language Camp: The Band provided an Ojibwe Language Immersion camp utilizing the Camp Rabideau National Historic Landmark in June 2008.
- American Elm Restoration Project: LLBO is one of the partners helping to restore disease-tolerant species to the land.
- In March 2007, Chippewa National Forest worked with LLBO and BIA to identify FS roads for inclusion in the Indian Reservation Roads inventory (IRR). A participating agreement was formalized in March 2009 to grow this effort from maintenance towards bridge work and road improvements.

### ***Cultural and Institutional Awareness:***

- **Second annual Employee Heritage Day** June 18, 2008: Keynote speakers included outgoing Chairman George Goggleye, Tribal Elder Larry Aitkin, and a performance by the Cass Lake Dance and Drum Group. *(Photo right: Forest employees learn the art and meaning of powwow dancing with the Cass Lake Dance and Drum Group.)*



- **Leech Lake Career Fairs:** Chippewa National Forest participates annually at the Northern Lights Casino, and at Leech Lake Tribal College.
- **Native American Fish and Wildlife Conference 08:** Included a national forest exhibit, national forest promotional items, and attendance.
- The Chippewa National Forest co-sponsored a **Tribal Relations Training** with the Huron Manistee National Forest. Attendees included the Forest Supervisor and Deer River District Ranger.

April 2009

- Hosted guest speaker Susan Johnson, R2 Tribal Relations, on the **Tribal Forest Protection Act** and Stewardship Contracting.



**Forest Service Eastern Region Honor Award for Protecting Ecosystems:** Three individuals (one from Leech Lake Solid Waste Dept, and a former Division of Resource Management employee along with a national forest employee) were recognized in Milwaukee, Wis. for implementing a cooperative dumpsite clean-up process with local communities at over 48 sites since 2007. *(Photo left: Regional Forester Kent Connaughton, Forest Supervisor Rob Harper, Acting Forest Supervisor Bill Nightingale, and Honor Award winners Jim Barott, John Persell, and Bryan Jenkins for Don Headbird)*

- **Minnesota Tribal Conference 07 and Leech Lake Economic Development Summit 08:** The Forest Tribal Liaison and LLBO Department of Public Works jointly presented the Dumpsite Clean-Up Project.

### *Development of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU):*

- As preparation for understanding MOU's, training and information on Treaty Rights and Trust Responsibilities was conducted for the Forest Leadership Team in December 2007 and January 2009.



*Safety and Health Specialist LynnDee Christopherson talks with students at the White Earth Career Fair 2009*